

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USDEL MBFR VIENNA INFO BONN MAR 15
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

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FOR FERNANDEZ FROM CLAUSSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: "ATLANTIC NEWS" REPORT ON MBFR

1. FOLLOWING TEXT APPEARED IN "ATLANTIC NEWS" DATED
15 MARCH 1978. BEGIN TEXT:
2. (A.N.-N.A.)-THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MET ON FRIDAY
MORNING IN ORDER TO SUM UP ON THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON
FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE (MBFR), IN THE
PRESENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATO AD HOC GROUP TO THE
TALKS.

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3. THE AMBASSADORS NOTABLY HEARD AND DISCUSSED THE 34TH
ORAL REPORT ON MBFR. THIS REPORT WAS PRESENTED BY
AMBASSADOR ROGER BOLLAND (UNITED KINGDOM), AMBASSADOR J.
STENBAEK HANSEN (DENMARK) AND COLONEL ROBERT WINTER
(LUXEMBOURG), MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP. THE HEAD OF
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE TALKS, MR. EDWARD COX, WAS
ALSO TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING, BUT HE DIED LAST

WEDNESDAY IN VIENNA AFTER BEING KNOCKED DOWN BY A TRAM.

4. ACCORDING TO ALLIANCE CIRCLES, SINCE THIS ROUND BEGAN AT THE END OF JANUARY, THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE MADE NO PARTICULAR PROGRESS ON THE SOLE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, IE THE SEARCH FOR AN AGREEMENT FOR HOLDING A MORE DETAILED EXCHANGE OF DATA CONCERNING THE FORCES BELONGING TO EITHER SIDE WHICH ARE STATIONED IN THE REDUCTION ZONE IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

5. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS SAID AT NATO THAT "BOTH SIDES HAVE SHOWN A WILLINGNESS TO ADAPT" THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGING DATA ONCE AGAIN, AND THAT IT IS HOPED THAT THE NATO AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WILL REACH AN AGREEMENT IN THIS RESPECT BEFORE THE END OF THE PRESENT ROUND (THE 14TH), ON 21 APRIL NEXT.

6. THE DISCUSSION ON DATA HAS BEEN AT A STANDSTILL BECAUSE OF SLIGHT DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS OF THE EAST AND WEST ON THE MANNER OF PROCEEDING WITH AN ADDITIONAL, MORE DETAILED EXCHANGE OF DATA (WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE TWO SIDES HAVE ALREADY EXCHANGED GLOBAL FIGURES ON THEIR GROUND AND AIR FORCES).

7. IT IS IN FACT NATO WHICH HAD PROPOSED THIS ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE SINCE THE GLOBAL FIGURES WOULD NOT ENABLE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEGOTIATORS TO CLARIFY THE REASONS WHY NATO'S ESTIMATES ON THE WARSAW PACT FORCES AND THE FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE LATTER DO NOT CORRESPOND. NATO HAD NOTABLY PROPOSED TO THE EAST THAT A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF "MILITARY FORMATIONS" (OF GROUND FORCES), IN THREE STAGES: (1) LARGE FORMATIONS, (2) RESIDUAL UNITS, AND (3) MULTINATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL. NATO DID NOT WISH TO COMPLICATE THIS TASK BY EXTENDING THIS ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE TO THE AIR FORCES. ACCORDING TO CERTAIN SOURCES, THE NATO COUNTRIES ARE NOW READY TO ENVISAGE AN EXCHANGE, BUT ON CERTAIN CONDITIONS, INCLUDING DATA ON AIR FORCES.

8. AS FOR THE EAST, WHICH APPEARED TO BE MORE READY AT THE END OF THE LAST ROUND THAN IT IS AT PRESENT TO ENVISAGE AN EXCHANGE LIMITED TO GROUND FORCES, ITS POSITION IS LESS CLEAR THAN THAT OF THE ALLIED COUNTRIES. ON THE ONE HAND, THE EAST WISHES THE AIR FORCES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS NOW UNDER EXAMINATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PACT COUNTRIES, AND THE SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR, NOTABLY FEAR THAT THIS ADDITIONAL EXCHANGE MAY LEAD TO A FUTURE REQUEST FROM THE

WEST FOR EVEN MORE DETAILED DATA. THEY ARE ALSO REPORTED
TO FEAR THAT PROGRESSIVELY MORE DETAILED EXCHANGES OF DATA
MAY GIVE NATO A CLEARER IDEA OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE
PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE (FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE
MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF MBFR, SEE A.N. OF 27 JANUARY).
END TEXT. CLAUSSEN UNQUOTE CLAUSSEN

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